

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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CELINA ROBERTS, ANTHONY SCIOTTO,  
ERIC BURNS, KERI DICKEY, ANGELA  
RAMIREZ, DIANA SANTILLAN, CAMILLE  
GHANEM, ARNOLD WILLIAMS,  
and OLUWATOSIN BABALOLA, individually,  
and on behalf of other persons similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:13-CV-13142

v.

THE TJX COMPANIES, INC., a Delaware Corporation; MARSHALLS OF MA, INC., a Massachusetts Corporation; MARMAXX OPERATING CORP., a Delaware Corporation, d/b/a MARSHALLS HOMEGOODS, d/b/a MARSHALLS, d/b/a T.J. MAXX HOMEGOODS; HOMEGOODS, INC., a Delaware Corporation;

Defendants.

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**PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF  
CLASS AND COLLECTIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Plaintiffs Celina Roberts, Anthony Sciutto, Eric Burns, Keri Dickey, Angela Ramirez, Diana Santillan, Camille Ghanem, Tommy Zahtila, and Gianfranco Pirolo (“Plaintiffs”), by and through their counsel, hereby move the Court for preliminary approval of the class and collective action settlement with set forth in the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) attached as Exhibit 1 to the accompanying Declaration of Seth R. Lesser filed contemporaneously herewith (“Lesser Decl.”). Defendants The TJX Companies, Inc., Marshalls of MA, Inc., Marmaxx Operating Corp., and Homegoods, Inc. (“Defendants”) do not oppose this motion.

Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter the proposed Preliminary Approval Order, consented to by Defendants and attached as Exhibit XX to the Lesser Dec. (“Preliminary Approval Order”), which, *inter alia*: (1) asserts jurisdiction over the ASM Claims<sup>1</sup>, the Parties in this action, and the implementation and administration of the Settlement Agreement; (2) adjudges the terms of the Settlement Agreement to preliminarily be fair, reasonable and adequate, and in the best interests of Plaintiffs and members of the Settlement Classes, and directs consummation of its terms and provisions; (3) conditionally certifies the New York State Law Settlement Class pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 for settlement purposes only; (4) conditionally appoints Celina Roberts, Anthony Sciotto, Eric Burns, Keri Dickey, Angela Ramirez, Diana Santillan, Camille Ghanem, Tommy Zahtila, and Gianfranco Pirolo as Plaintiffs who, together with Plaintiffs’ counsel, shall be authorized to act on behalf of all members of the Settlement Classes with respect to the ASM Claims; (5) for the purposes of settlement only, conditionally finding that Plaintiffs’ Counsel are adequate to serve as Class Counsel and conditionally appointing the following as “Class Counsel” pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g): Sara Wyn Kane, Robert J. Valli, Jr., and James A. Vagnini of VALLI KANE & VAGNINI LLP, Seth R. Lesser, Fran L. Rudich and Christopher M. Timmel of KLAFTER OLSEN & LESSER LLP, Sam J. Smith and Loren B. Donnell of BURR & SMITH, LLP, Hillary Schwab of FAIR WORK, P.C., Cyrus Mehri and Michael D. Lieder of MEHRI & SKALET, PLLC, Marc S. Hepworth, Charles Gershbaum, and David A. Roth of HEPWORTH, GERSHBAUM & ROTH, PLLC, Gregg Shavitz, Camar Jones, and Alan L. Quiles of SHAVITZ LAW GROUP, PA, Emily E. Smith-Lee of SLN LAW, LLC, and Jay D. Ellwanger of ELLWANGER LAW, LLP; (6) approves the content of the Settlement Notice, authorizing the first-class mailing of the Settlement Notice to all members of the New

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<sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms in this Motion shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Appendix to the Settlement Agreement titled “Definitions to Stipulation and Settlement Agreement.

York State Law Settlement Class twenty (20) calendar days after the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, finding that the method of dissemination of the Settlement Notice is the best practicable means of distributing the Settlement Notice to members of the New York State Law Settlement Class, and after the Claims Administrator finalizes the class data pursuant to the schedule set forth in the Settlement Agreement; (7) approves and appoints the Claims Administrator in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (8) sets a forty-five (45) calendar day deadline for the submission of Requests for Exclusion or objections by members of the New York State Law Settlement Class; (9) approves the Request for Exclusion process set forth in the Settlement Agreement; (10) orders that any member of the New York State Law Settlement Class who is also a member of the FLSA Collective and Opt-Out of the New York State Law Settlement Class shall be deemed to have withdrawn that consent and shall no longer be a member of the FLSA Collective for any purpose; (11) orders that any member of the New York State Law Settlement Class who does not properly and timely Opt-Out shall be bound by all the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement, the Final Approval Order, the Final Judgment, and the releases set forth therein; (12) orders that any member of the New York State Law Settlement Class who validly and timely becomes an Opt-Out shall not: (i) have any rights under the Settlement Agreement; (ii) be entitled to receive a Settlement Payment; (iii) have a right to object to the Settlement Agreement; and (iv) be bound by the Settlement Agreement, any Final Approval Order, or the Final Judgment; (13) approves the objection process set forth in the Settlement Agreement; and (14) sets the Final Approval Hearing for a date in January 2021.

In support of this relief, Plaintiffs have contemporaneously filed a memorandum of law in support of this motion for preliminary approval of the class and collective action settlement.

Date: July 20, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

**VALLI KANE & VAGNINI LLP**  
Sara Wyn Kane\*  
Robert J. Valli, Jr.\*  
James A. Vagnini\*  
600 Old Country Road, Suite 519  
Garden City, New York 11530  
Telephone: (516) 203-7180

**BURR & SMITH, LLP**  
Sam J. Smith\*  
Loren B. Donnell\*  
111 2nd Ave. N.E., Suite 1100  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
Telephone: (813) 253-2010

**MEHRI & SKALET, PLLC**  
Cyrus Mehri\*  
1250 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone: (202) 822-5100

**ELLWANGER  
LAW LLP**  
Jay D. Ellwanger\*  
8310-1 N. Capital of Texas Hwy., Ste. 190  
Austin, Texas 78731  
Telephone: (737) 808-2262

*/s/ Seth R. Lesser*

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**KLAFTER OLSEN & LESSER LLP**  
Seth R. Lesser\*\*  
Fran L. Rudich  
Two International Drive, Suite 350  
Rye Brook, New York 10573  
Telephone: (914) 934-9200

**FAIR WORK, P.C.**  
Hillary Schwab  
192 South Street, Suite 450  
Boston, MA 02111  
Telephone: (617) 607-3260

**HEPWORTH, GERSHBAUM  
& ROTH, PLLC**  
Marc S. Hepworth\*  
David A. Roth\*  
192 Lexington Avenue, Suite 802  
New York NY 10016  
Telephone: (212) 545-1199

**SHAVITZ LAW GROUP PA**  
Gregg Shavitz\*  
Alan Quiles\*  
951 Yamato Road, Suite 285  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431  
Telephone: (561) 447-8888

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

\* Admitted *Pro Hac Vice*

1515 S Federal Hwy., Suite 404  
Boca Raton, FL 33432  
Telephone: (561) 447-8888

111 2nd Ave NE, Suite 1100  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
Telephone: (813) 253-2010

**CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE**

Though Defendants would, in the course of litigation, vigorously oppose the merits of the Plaintiffs' claims, seek the decertification of the FLSA collective in this action, and oppose the certification of the putative New York state law class under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, they do not oppose the instant motion for preliminary approval of the proposed Settlement or the certification of the proposed New York State Law Settlement Class for settlement purposes only. To the extent that the Court does not grant preliminary or final approval of the proposed Settlement, Defendants reserve the right to raise any argument with respect to the merits of the Plaintiffs' claims or the appropriateness of the final certification of the FLSA collective or the certification of the putative Rule 23 New York state law class that they might have otherwise undertaken in litigation, or to make arguments that are contrary to the positions taken by the Plaintiffs in this memorandum.

*/s/ Seth R. Lesser* \_\_\_\_\_

Seth R. Lesser

*Attorney for Plaintiffs*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Seth R. Lesser, hereby certify that a true copy of the above document filed through the ECF system will be electronically sent to the registered participants as identified on the Notice of Electronic Filing and paper copies will be sent to those indicated as non-registered participants on July 20, 2020.

/s/ Seth R. Lesser

Seth R. Lesser

*Attorney for Plaintiffs*

**KLAFTER OLSEN & LESSER LLP**

Seth R. Lesser  
Fran L. Rudich  
Two International Drive, Suite 350  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
Telephone: (914) 934-9200

**HEPWORTH, GERSHBAUM & ROTH, PLLC**

Marc S. Hepworth  
Charles Gershbaum  
David A. Roth  
Mathew A. Parker  
192 Lexington Avenue, Suite 802  
New York, NY 10016  
Telephone: (212) 545-1199

**MEHRI & SKALET, PLLC**

Cyrus Mehri  
Michael D. Lieder  
Ellen L. Eardley  
Mehri & Skalet, PLLC  
1250 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone: (202) 822-5100

**SHAVITZ LAW GROUP PA**

Gregg Shavitz  
Camar Jones

**FAIR WORK, P.C.**

192 South Street, Suite 450  
Boston, MA 02111  
Telephone: (617) 607-3260

**VALLI KANE & VAGNINI LLP**

Sara Wyn Kane  
James A. Vagnini  
Robert J. Valli, Jr.  
600 Old Country Road, Suite 519  
Garden City, NY 11530  
Telephone: (516) 203-7180

**DINOVO PRICE ELLWANGER & HARDY LLP**

Jay D. Ellwanger  
William M. Parrish  
Adam G. Price  
7000 North MoPac Expressway,  
Suite 350  
Austin, TX 78731  
Telephone: (512) 539-2626

**BURR & SMITH LLP**

Sam J. Smith  
Loren B. Donnell